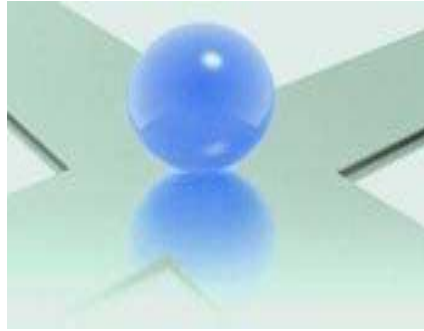


**No-Failure Design**  
and  
**Disaster Recovery**  
*Lessons from Fukushima*

**Yakov Ben-Haim**

**Technion**

**Israel Institute of Technology**



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# 1 *Highlights*

§ Major nuclear reactor accidents occur.

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## 2 *Lessons of Fukushima: No-Failure Design and Disaster Recovery*

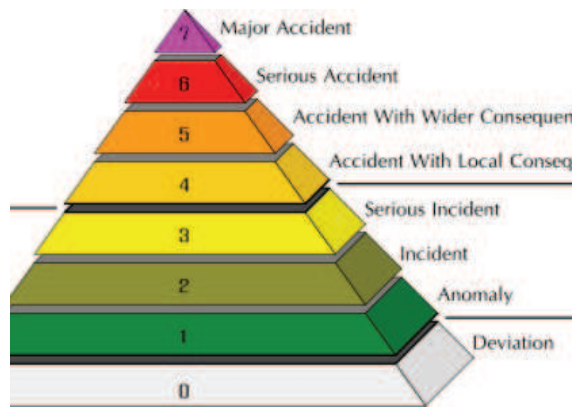


Figure 1: Int'l Nuclear Event Scale. (Wikipedia)

## § Nuclear plant accidents:

- **Major (INES 7):**
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  - Chernobyl, Ukraine, 26.4.1986.
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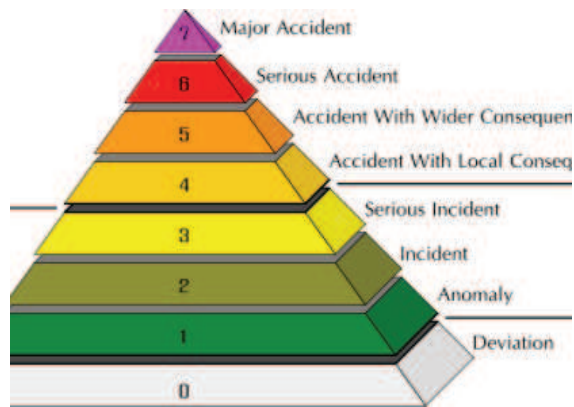


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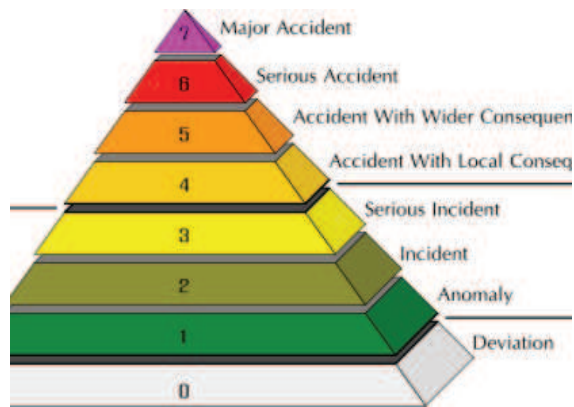


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  - Chernobyl, Ukraine, 26.4.1986.
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- **With wider consequences** (INES 5):
  - Windscale fire, UK, 10.10.1957
  - 3 Mile Island, Harrisburg, PA, 28.3.1979.
  - Lucens partial core meltdown (Switzerland), 21.1.1969
  - Others.

## § Approx nuclear power statistics (Aug 2011):

- **432 reactors** in **30 countries** (ENS).<sup>‡</sup>
- **366GWe** installed capacity (ENS).
- **14,570 reactor years** of experience (ENS).
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<sup>†</sup>This is probably a substantial under-estimate. The numerator is too small: 3 reactors were seriously damaged, not 1. The denominator is too large: we should only take reactor-years from industrial democracies.

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## § Are there more lessons or challenges from Fukushima?



### **3** *Science-Based Modeling*

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- Used in design and strategic planning.
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## § We must understand the modern attitude: strengths and limitations.

# Fundamental Physics

## *Maxwell's Equations*

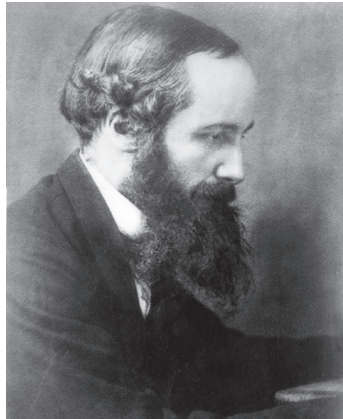


Figure 4: James Clerk Maxwell, 1831–1879.

$$\nabla \cdot E = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon} \quad \nabla \cdot B = 0$$

$$\nabla \times E = -\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} \quad \nabla \times B = \mu J + \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial E}{\partial t}$$

- **Positivism:** From **basic science** to **technology**:  
Radio, X-ray diagnosis, CAT scan,  
wifi, remote sensing, . . . .
- **Engineering education:** sciences not crafts.

# Empirical Physics

## *Finite Element Modeling*

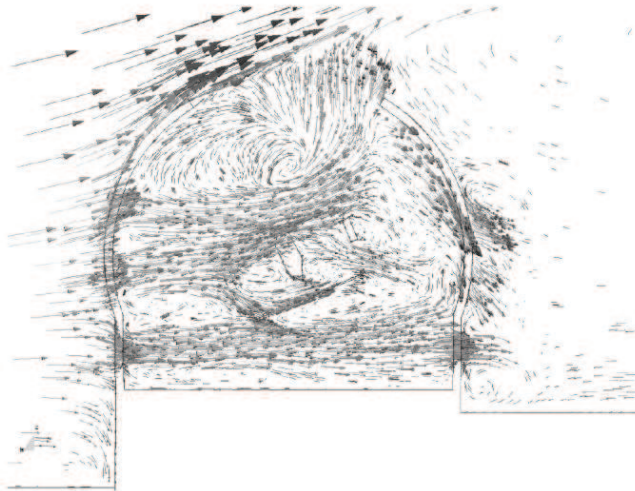


Figure 7: Example of velocity field on the vertical mid section

Figure 5: Velocity field around a structure.<sup>‡</sup>

- If we **know the physics**  
we can  
**calculate anything.**
- **Methodology:** simulation vs experiment.

# Computational Social Science

## *Econometric Modeling*

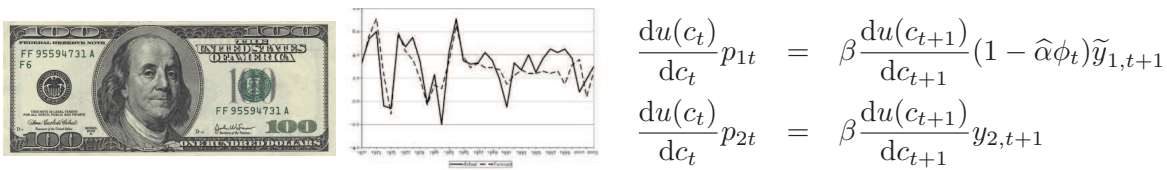


Figure 6: \$100, US GDP growth,<sup>‡</sup> Lucas asset pricing model.

- From the **dry science**  
to  
**policy formulation.**
- **Methodology:** social engineering.

---

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<sup>‡</sup> Saul H. Hymans, Forecasting and Econometric Models, The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics, <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/ForecastingandEconometricModels.html>

# Computational Megalomania?

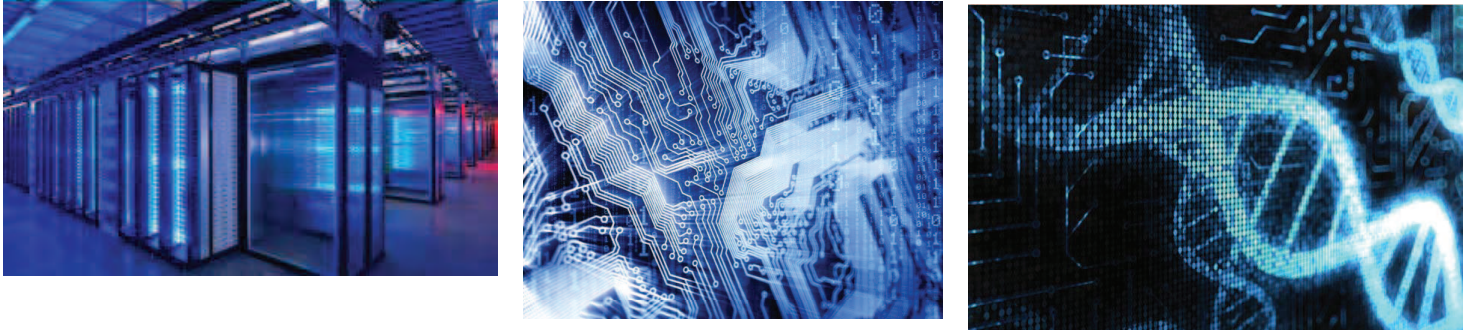


Figure 7: Computers and their aspirations.

- If you can't **measure** it, it's not real (logical positivism).
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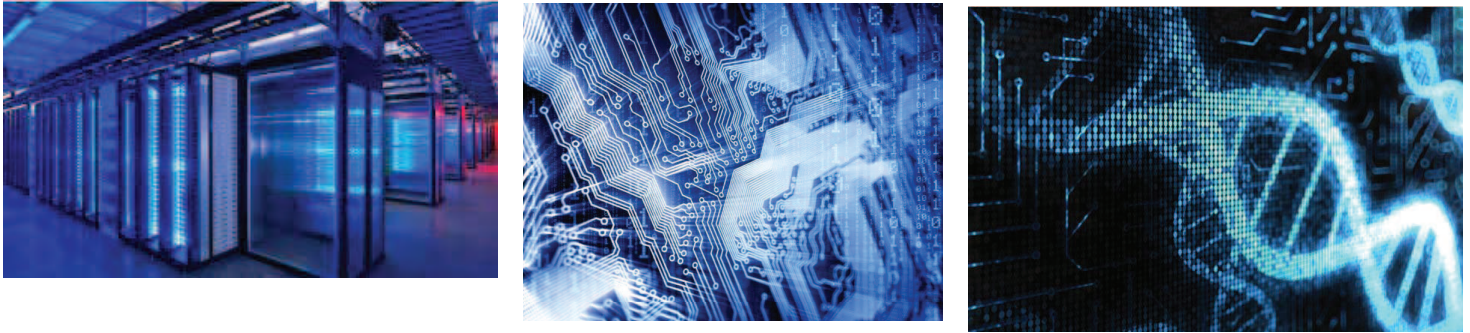


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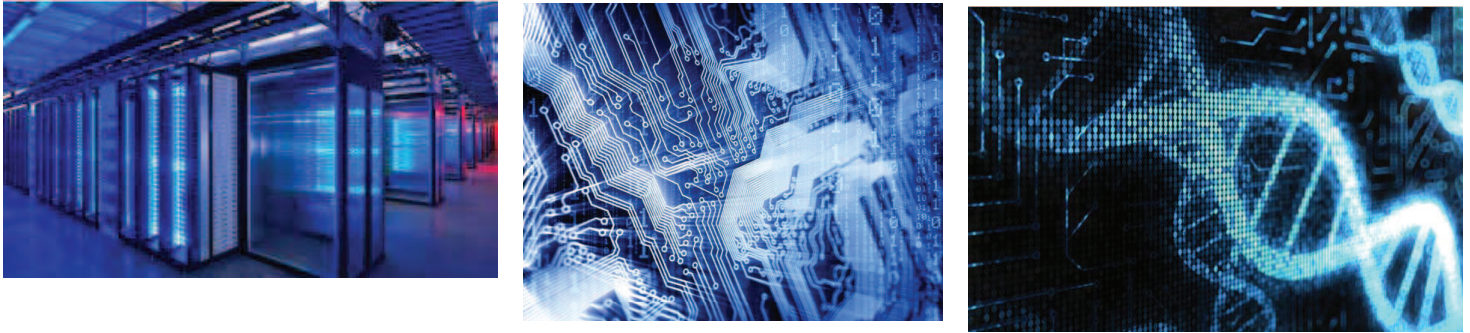


Figure 9: Computers and their aspirations.

- If you can't **measure** it, it's not real (logical positivism).
- If it's not a **number**, it's not important.  
(What about meaning?)
- We can compute **anything**. (Archimedes' modern lever?)

*~~Modeling: Conclusion~~***§ Quantitative model types:**

- Fundamental physics.
- Empirical physics.
- Computational social science.
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**§ The challenge:**

Uncertainty, surprise, ignorance, change.

**Info-gaps.**

## 4 *Info-Gap Uncertainty: Examples*

*~~Thames Flood Barrier~~*

Figure 10: 1953 barrier breach.      Figure 11: Barrier element.

**§ Some facts:**

- 1953: worst storm surge of century.
- Flood defences breached.
- 307 dead. Thousands evacuated.
- Canvey Island in Estuary devastated.
- Current barrier opened May 1984.



## § Thames 2100:

Major re-design of flood defences.

## § Uncertainties:

- **Statistics** of surge height:
  - Fairly complete: most years since 1819.
  - Planning for 1000-year surge.
- **Global warming:** sea level rise.
- **Tectonic settling** of s. England.
- **Damage vs flood depth.**
- **Human action:** dredging, embanking.
- **Urban development.**

§ **Severe Knightian uncertainties:** Gaps in knowledge, understanding and goals.

*~~Fukushima Nuclear Reactor~~*

Figure 12: Sea wall breach.



Figure 13: Hydrogen explosion.

**§ Some facts:**

- 11.3.2011: Richter-9 earthquake in NE Japan.
- Tsunami followed shortly.
- Sea wall breached: fig. 12.<sup>‡</sup>
- Hydrogen explosion several days later. Fig. 13.<sup>‡</sup>
- Slow disaster recovery.

**§ Info-gaps:**

- Sub-system interactions.
- Institutional constraints.

---

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<sup>‡</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1388629/Japan-tsunami-destroyed-wall-designed-protect-Fukushima-nuclear-plant.html>

*~~Assay Spatially Random Material~~*

Figure 14: Nuclear Waste.



Figure 15: Gold Ore Vein.

- Detector type, location, number?
- Info-gaps:
  - Spatial distribution of analyte.
  - Spatial heterogeneity of matrix.

*~~Interest rate after 9/11~~*

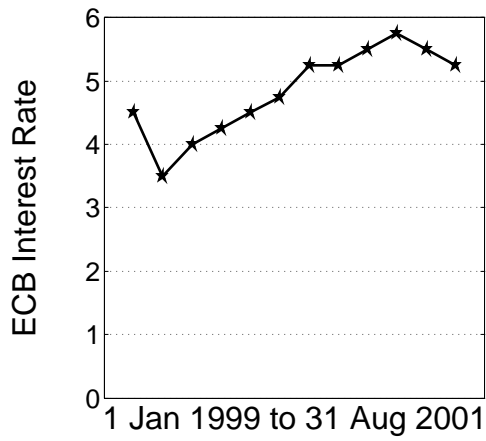


Figure 16: ECB Interest Rates

- Rate fairly constant through Aug 2001

~~Interest rate after 9/11~~

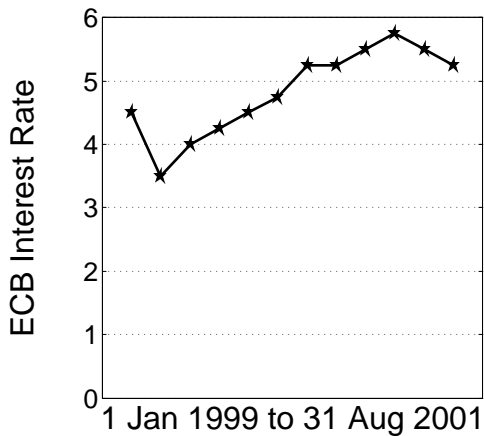


Figure 17: ECB Interest Rates

Figure 18: 11 Sept 2001.

- Rate fairly constant through Aug 2001
- After 9/11 ECB will reduce the rate.
- Info-gap:
  - Reduce by how much?
  - What is ECB decision model?

*~~Climate Change~~*§ **The issue:**

Sustained rise in **green house gases**

results in **temperature rise**

which results in **adverse economic impact.**

§ **Models:**

- Temperature change:  $\Delta\text{CO}_2 \implies \Delta T$ .
- Economic impact:  $\Delta T \implies \Delta\text{GDP}$ .

§ **The problems:**

- **Models** highly uncertain.
- **Data** controversial.

§ E.g., IPCC model for

## Uncertainty in Equil'm Clim. Sensi'ty, $S$ .

- Likely range:  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- Extreme values highly uncertain.
- 95th quantile of  $S$  in 10 studies:  
Mean:  $7.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . St. Dev:  $2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

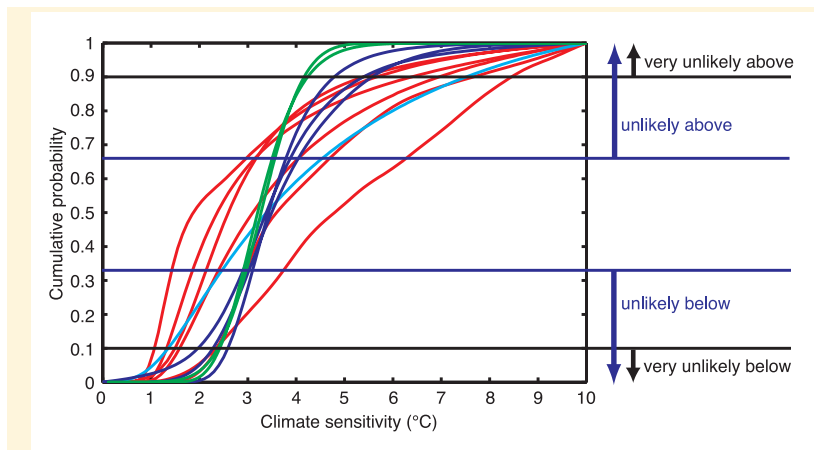


Figure 19: IPCC ch.10, p.799.

*~~Profiling Criminals~~*

Figure 20: Profiling raises arrests.

- **Profiling:** focus policing resources.
  - **Arrests rise** in profiled group.
  - **Crime rises** in other groups.
  - Everybody happy?
- **Info-gaps:** Uncertain response functions.



*Summary*

§ **Severe Knightian uncertainties:** Gaps in knowledge, understanding and goals.

§

*~~ Summary ~~*

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§ **Info-Gap models of uncertainty:**

- Disparity between what is known and what **needs to be known** for responsible decision.

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§ **Severe Knightian uncertainties:** Gaps in knowledge, understanding and goals.

§ **Info-Gap models of uncertainty:**

- Disparity between what is known and what **needs to be known** for responsible decision.
- **Unbounded family of sets** of events (points, functions or sets).
- **No known worst case.**
- No funcs. of probability, plausibility, likelihood, etc.
- **Hybrid: info-gap model of probabilities.**

## 5 *Innovation Dilemma*

## § Choose between two options:

- Option 1:
  - Innovative, promising, new technology.
  - **Higher uncertainty** because it's new.
-

## § Choose between two options:

- **Option 1:**
  - Innovative, promising, new technology.
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- **Option 2:**
  - **Standard. State of the art.**
  - **Lower uncertainty** because it's well known.

## § Examples of the innovation dilemma:

- **Automotive collision control:**
  - Sensor-based computer control (innov).
  - Reliable effective breaking system (SotA).
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- **Automotive collision control:**
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- **Eradicate invasive species:**
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  - Port quarantine (SotA).
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- **Automotive collision control:**
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- **Risk taking or avoiding:**
  - Nothing ventured, nothing gained (innov).
  - Nothing ventured, nothing lost (SotA).

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## § Question:

Which strategy suitable for innovation dilemma?



## 6 *Thames Flood Barrier*



Figure 21: **1953 barrier breach.**      Figure 22: **Barrier element.**

### § **Some facts:**

- **1953: worst storm surge of century.**
- **Flood defences breached.**
- **307 dead. Thousands evacuated.**
- **Canvey Island in Estuary devastated.**
- **Current barrier opened May 1984.**

## § Thames 2100:

Major re-design of flood defences.

## § Uncertainties:

- **Statistics** of surge height:
  - Fairly complete: most years since 1819.
  - Planning for 1000-year surge.
- **Damage vs flood depth.**
- **Global warming:** sea level rise.
- **Human action:** dredging, embanking.
- **Urban development.**
- **Tectonic settling** of s. England.

## § Design requirement:

Small probability of large damage.

## § Decision: choose a design.

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## § Design strategy: Robust satisficing.

- **How wrong can we be**, and the design is still **adequate?** (**Satisficing.**)
- **How large a surprise** can the design **tolerate?** (**Robustness.**)

## § Innovation dilemma.

- **Design 1:**
  - **Innovative** technology.
    - Early warning system.
    - Adaptive channeling.
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    - Solid dykes.
    - Hydraulic barriers.
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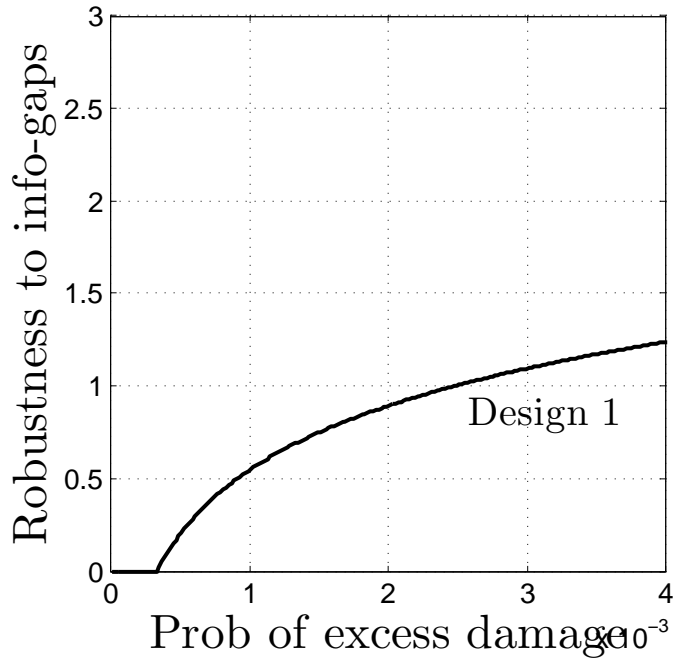
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## § Choose design 1? Design 2?

- **Responsible decision?**
- **Robust to ignorance?**

# § Robustness to info-gaps vs Probability of excess damage. Design 1

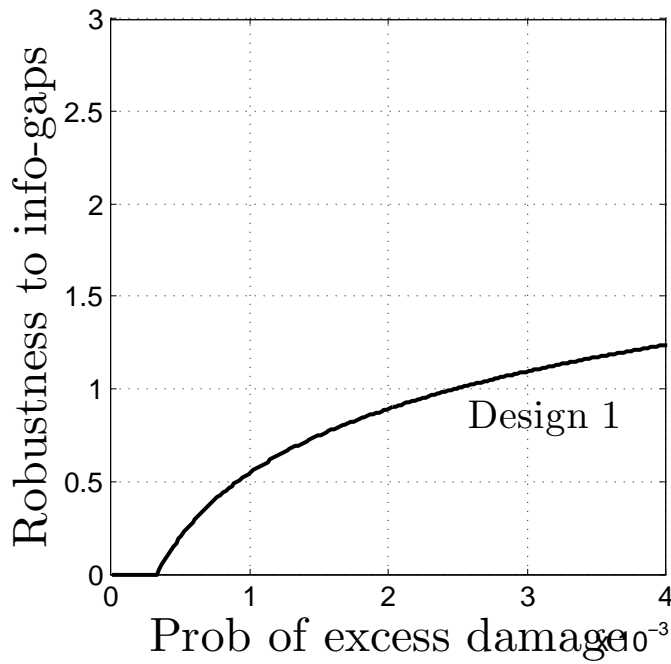


§ Trade off:

**Less demanding outcome** has **greater robustness**.

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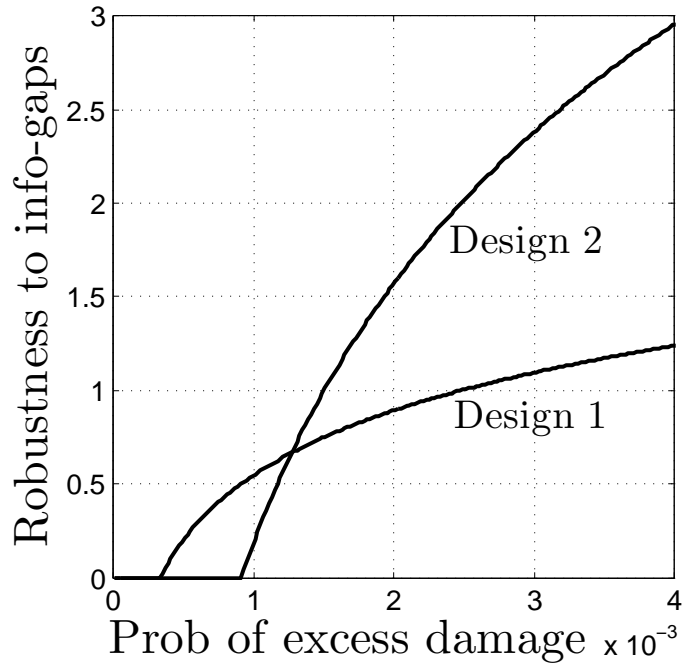
### § Trade off:

**Less demanding outcome** has **greater robustness**.

### § Zeroing:

**Estimated outcome** has **zero robustness**.

## § Comparing 2 designs.



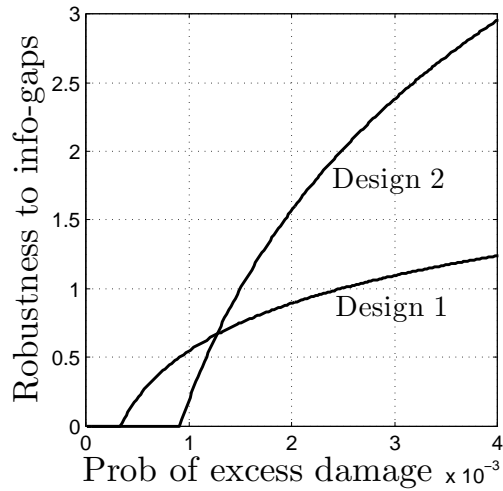
§ Design 1 (innov) **estimated to be better.**

**Zero robustness of estimates.**

§ Design 2 (SotA) **more robust for  $P > P_{\times}$ .**

§ **Innovation dilemma.**

## § Optimize or robust-satisfice?



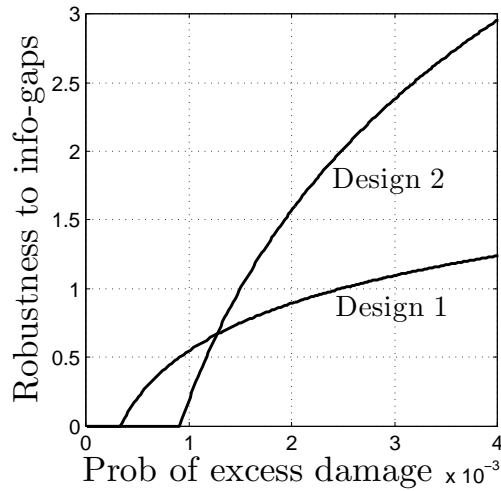
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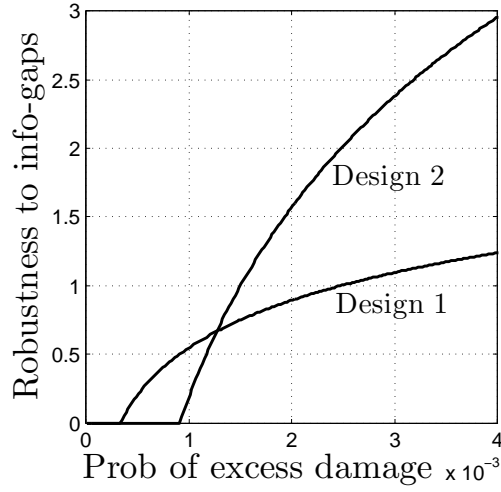
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- Maximize rbs of critical outcome.

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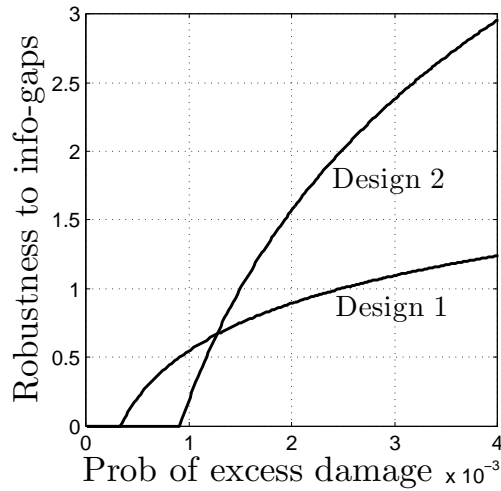


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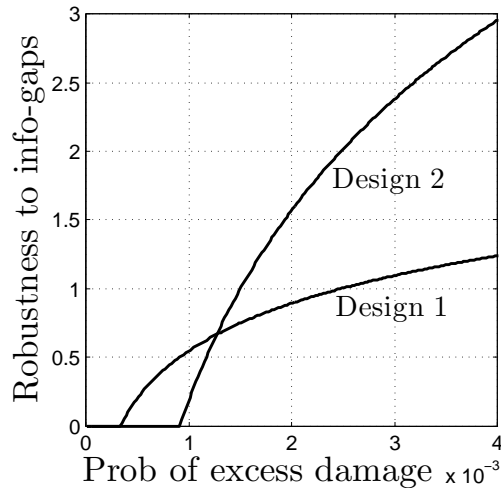
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Design 2 more robust for  $P > P_{\times}$ .

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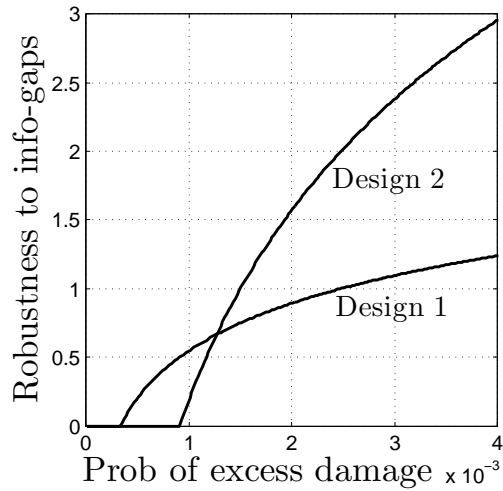
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## § Resolve innovation dilemma:

- Value judgment on outcome requirement.
- Robustly satisfy requirement.

## § Optimize or robust-satisfice?



## § Robust-satisficing strategy:

Robustly satisfy performance requirement.

## § Question:

Is robustness a good bet?

## 7 *Conclusion*

## § Lessons:

- Design for no-failure.
- Prepare Disaster Recovery Capability.

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## § Closing question:

No-fail design and disaster recovery capability are **both necessary** for critical technology.

**How to decide the technology is feasible?**